

MEMORANDUM FOR HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTORS

FROM: K. JOYCE EDWARDS (*signed September 18, 2002*)
Director
Office of Executive Resources Management

SUBJECT: FY 2003 Presidential Rank Awards Program

On September 17, 2002, Director James invited your agency heads to nominate career senior executives and other senior career employees for the FY 2003 Presidential Rank Awards. Here is a copy of the Director's memorandum and our guidance on nominations for this year's rank awards.

There have been no substantive changes in the evaluation criteria or the nomination process for SES rank awards. However, in 2001, the rank award statute was amended to extend eligibility for rank awards to certain senior career employees who have a sustained record of extraordinary professional, technical, or scientific achievement. Beginning with awards granted in 2003, the President may confer the ranks of *Distinguished Senior Professional* and *Meritorious Senior Professional* on a select group of senior career employees in a manner similar to that for career members of the SES. "Senior career employees" are individuals in OPM-allocated Senior-Level (SL) and Scientific-Professional (ST) positions. The attached guidance provides eligibility requirements, nomination criteria, and other information for this new rank award category.

Nominations are due to OPM by January 31, 2003. You may nominate up to 9 percent of your career SES population for SES rank awards, with no more than one Distinguished Executive nomination for every five Meritorious Executive nominations. Similarly, you may nominate up to 9 percent of your appointees in SL and ST positions, with no more than one Distinguished Senior Professional nomination for every five Meritorious Senior Professional nominations.

If you need additional information, please contact Anne Kirby (202) 606-1610 (or email makirby@opm.gov).

Attachments